



FEMA

July 2, 2019

The Honorable Kamala Harris
United States Senator
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Harris:

Thank you for your letter dated June 4, 2019, to Mr. Peter Gaynor, Acting Administrator of the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). You wrote requesting that microgrids be considered as an eligible, resilient solution under the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program ahead of the California wildfire season.

Over the past several months, FEMA has received inquiries about the eligibility of mitigation activities with microgrids. Mitigation is composed of "the capabilities necessary to reduce the loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters." Microgrids are an eligible Hazard Mitigation Assistance activity and if a local government chooses to sponsor a microgrid project, it must meet all mitigation planning, project eligibility, feasibility, cost effectiveness, environmental planning, and historic preservation requirements. The sub-applicant must demonstrate risk reduction and the mitigation value of the project while complying with all relevant statutes and regulations.

FEMA seeks to improve outcomes for disaster survivors and enhance the nation's preparedness for and resilience to future disasters. FEMA places a high value on mitigation and is committed to advance and streamline the HMA program. I hope this information is helpful to you. If you have further questions or need additional assistance, please have a member of your staff contact FEMA's Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs Division by telephone at (202) 646-4500.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Return for KF".

Katherine B. Fox
Assistant Administrator for Mitigation
Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration – FEMA
Resilience

cc: Bob Fenton, Regional Administrator, Region IX